

What other services do children receive?

A health screening if there seems to be a need for it, referral for more “in depth” assessment if there is a developmental need, transportation to the program and back home, and lunch and breakfast each day and a snack.

How do I know that the programs are good and that my child is getting what she needs to be prepared for kindergarten?

The Study of Kindergarten Programs, completed in 2001 is a good state study of the programs. Children are tracked to 3rd grade and beyond to see how they do on the state assessment system, PACT. SCRA scores are available to see children’s individual progress..

What connections will parents have to the program?

There should be 4 parent conferences per year with at least two being in settings other than the school. The Office of Early Childhood Education recommends that these “two in other settings” be done in the home, if at all possible. Parent involvement is a part of every good kindergarten program.

How do teachers receive professional development?

The Office of Early Childhood Education offers annual training on various current topics. There are 4 conferences in the state that offer training: SCAEYC, SCECA, Head Start and the Child Care Association. Staff from OECE participates in each of these conferences. The OECE also provides training to administrators and early childhood coordinators with the expectation that through the “train the trainer” approach that the training will be delivered back home in the local district. College and university early childhood staff are provided information and training. It is advised that districts provide information to the Office of Early Childhood Education before purchasing expensive training consultant contracts to ensure that the topics and strategies provided are aligned to state standards, regulations and policies. Reading First schools also receive professional development related to research on early reading instruction.